

Introduction

The Background and Aim of the ASEAN Journal of Disaster Health Management

Being a well-known as one of the most disaster-prone region in the world, this inaugural publication of ASEAN Journal of Disaster Health Management (AJDHM) represents the significant achievement of a decade's effort by the ASEAN region in collaborate with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) through the implementation of Project for Strengthening the ASEAN Regional Capacity on Disaster Health Management (ARCH Project), initiated since the adaption of the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Disaster Health Management (ALD-DHM) at the 31st ASEAN Summit on 13 November 2017, which emphasized the need for collaboration, capacity-building, and innovation in disaster health management at both national and regional levels. The ALD-DHM has committed strengthening and development of DHM capacity followed by the adaption of the Plan of Action to Implement the ALD-DHM (2019-2025) (POA on ALD-DHM) at the 14th ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting (AHMM) on 29th August 2019 which ensures the realization of achieving the POA on ALD-DHM goal of a "Disaster resilient health system in the ASEAN community". This plan has been elaborated through a Matrix of Detailed Activities which is an annex of the Work Programme 2021-2025 of ASEAN Health Cluster 2 on Responding to All Hazards and Emerging Threats.

The Knowledge Management (KM) is one of the key priority areas in the POA on ALD-DHM to promote academic activities with concrete targets of actions by holding the regional academic conference (No.12), promoting the joint journal (No.13), and publishing a regional journal (No.14) on DHM which is able to realize the sustainable development of KM in the ASEAN region. To achieve these series of detailed activities, the ASEAN Academic Network on DHM (AAN-DHM) was established to facilitate collaboration and support the Regional Coordination Committee on Disaster Health Management (RCC-DHM).

The AJDHM is a direct outcome of these efforts, envisioned as a platform to promote knowledge sharing and academic capacity development, conduct active researches, and innovations. Following discussions within AAN-DHM, the establishment of the Journal has been prepared since the first meeting of the network on 8 September 2022 and further affirmed at the subsequent meeting on 31 January 2023. These meetings highlighted the Journal's vital

role in advancing knowledge and fostering collaboration across ASEAN Member States (AMS).

As the official journal of AAN-DHM, AJDHM aims to enhance the field of DHM by providing a platform for connecting healthcare professionals, policymakers, researchers, and practitioners from various sectors. The journal strives to deliver insights and recommendations that can be implicated at local, national, and regional levels as well as to intellectualize from actual practices of relevant experiences. By focusing on practical applications, it supports capacity-building efforts and promotes the adoption of systems, policies, and educations that strengthen DHM frameworks. Additionally, the Journal is committed to fostering the development of young and early-career researchers by encouraging them to contribute research and scientific articles in DHM field.

This inaugural issue reflects the breadth and depth of the field, featuring diverse contributions ranging from original studies to case analyses by presenting a variety of topics—spanning health system assessments, innovative training methodologies and curriculum development, disaster response strategies, and field report from the past emergencies—this publication highlights the complexity and importance of DHM across the ASEAN region. The integration of case studies alongside innovative frameworks bridges the gap between academic theory and practical application, enriching the understanding of DHM while equipping stakeholders with actionable strategies to mitigate the impact of future disasters.

Overall, this publication underscores the value of learning from past and ongoing disasters to better prepare for future challenges. Through detailed reporting and analysis, it provides a platform for sharing critical insights and practical solutions that can inform policy development and improve disaster response capabilities. Furthermore, the articles emphasize the need for continuous adaptation and learning, addressing not only the immediate health impacts of disasters but also the structural, educational, and logistical aspects of preparedness and response.

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